

SUPPLEMENTAL ESTIMATE OF APPROPRIATION FOR
THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, 1939

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

SUPPLEMENTAL ESTIMATE OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DE-
PARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN THE SUM OF \$460,000, FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR 1940

MARCH 8, 1939.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to
be printed

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, March 8, 1939.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for the consideration of Congress a supplemental estimate of appropriation for the Department of Agriculture, in the sum of \$460,000, for the fiscal year 1940.

The details of this supplemental estimate of appropriation, the necessity therefor, and the reasons for its transmission at this time are set forth in the letter of the Acting Director of the Bureau of the Budget, transmitted herewith, with whose comments and observations I concur.

Respectfully,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, March 7, 1939.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House.

SIR: I have the honor to submit for your consideration a supplemental estimate of appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30,

1940, for the Department of Agriculture, in the sum of \$460,000, as follows:

BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE

Pink bollworm control: For the control and prevention of spread of the pink bollworm, to be applied exclusively to the destruction of cotton plants and cotton remnants in pink bollworm infested areas in the State of Texas after the harvesting of the 1939 cotton crop in such areas, fiscal year 1940, \$460,000: *Provided*, That no expenditures from this appropriation shall be made for these purposes until a sum or sums, or their equivalent in value of labor and use of equipment, at least equal to such expenditures have been appropriated, subscribed, or contributed by the State of Texas, counties thereof, or local authorities, or by individuals or organizations, for the accomplishment of such purposes. (7 U. S. C. 151-167; 45 Stat. 688; 46 Stat. 66; 52 Stat. 733) ----- \$460, 000

At various times during the past 20 years there have occurred in the States of Texas, Louisiana, Arizona, and New Mexico infestations of the pink bollworm, one of the most destructive pests of cotton. As the result of preventive and control measures by the Federal Government, in cooperation with the States concerned, the pest has largely been eradicated, although it has been necessary during recent years to maintain a Federal domestic quarantine and to carry on control operations to prevent its spread from areas where it is known still to exist. For this purpose, the current Agricultural Appropriation Act provides \$446,800, and the same amount is provided in the Budget for the fiscal year 1940.

Surveys and inspections completed since the 1940 estimates were acted upon by the Bureau of the Budget clearly indicate a heavy infestation of the pink bollworm in the lower Rio Grande Valley and coastal bend area of Texas. The experts believe that it may be possible to eradicate the pest from these areas, or at least materially retard its spread, by a prompt clean-up of the cotton fields immediately following the harvesting of the 1939 cotton crop through the plowing under of cotton plants and the destruction of cotton remnants. This work is estimated to cost \$920,000, figured on the basis of \$1.85 to \$2.65 per acre including supervision and overhead.

I am of the opinion that the proposed operations should be undertaken and that the menace of the spread of this pest to the main Cotton Belt justifies Federal participation in this work. It is felt, however, that an equitable share of the cost should be borne by local interests. Consequently, it is my recommendation that the cost be equally divided between the Federal Government and local interests, the latter to be afforded the option of providing, in whole or in part, their share of the cost in cash or its equivalent in value of labor and use of equipment.

The foregoing supplemental estimate of appropriation is made necessary by reason of contingencies which have arisen since the transmission of the Budget for the fiscal year 1940. I recommend that it be transmitted to Congress.

Very respectfully,

D. W. BELL,
Acting Director of the Bureau of the Budget.